

Doolittle introduces 10-bill AIDS package

By SIGRID BATHEN
Recorder Capital Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — Among more than 60 AIDS measures pending before the state Legislature, the most controversial and publicized bills are those of Sen. John Doolittle, R-Roseville, who introduced the 10 measures as the "1987 AIDS Prevention Program" last January.

Some of the measures were introduced last session, and failed. The current bills in Doolittle's program would:

- Allow doctors to test anyone for HIV antibodies unless specifically refused by patients and communicate the results to public health officials and other health workers without patient consent.

- Require physicians to offer and recommend HIV antibody testing to marriage license applicants.

- Make it a felony for a person who knows he or she is infected with the virus to give blood.

- Promote routine HIV antibody testing of pregnant women.

- Enhance sentences for persons who commit certain sex crimes knowing they

are infected with the HIV virus.

- Mandate HIV antibody testing for all persons entering state prisons.

- Require physicians to test "long-term mental health patients" without the patients' consent and allow the state to require segregation of patients who test positive.

- Require convicted prostitutes and certain sex offenders to be tested for the virus. Local officials would report results to the state Department of Justice, which would maintain a listing for use by all local law enforcement officials.

- Require blood banks to accept directed blood donations regardless of the relationship between recipient and donor.

- Allow life and health insurance companies to test for HIV antibodies as a condition of issuance of insurance policies.

Other AIDS measures pending in the Legislature include bills affecting health and life insurance, Medi-Cal reimbursement to hospitals, education for health professionals and in the schools, hospice services and day care, regulation of sperm and tissue banks and all variety of testing

requirements, including testing of cadavers and donated body parts.

Among the various measures are:

- A comprehensive prevention-education bill, AB 87, by Sen. Art Agnos, D-San Francisco, that would prohibit certain kinds of discrimination against AIDS victims, create a California Commission on AIDS and declare that victims of a crime "by which AIDS could be transmitted" shall be considered victims for the purpose of laws governing restitution to crime victims.

- SB 1323, by Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti, D-Los Angeles, would expand existing programs addressing the AIDS epidemic and establishes new programs, appropriating nearly \$40 million. Many of the programs originally funded — including training for health care workers, the computerized AIDS information Network and a mental health project — are pilot programs with proven effectiveness but limited budgets and time frames.

- AB 250 by Assemblywoman Teresa Huges, D-Los Angeles, would provide that

a physician would not be held civilly or criminally liable if he or she "notifies the spouse of a patient that the patient is positive to the AIDS antibodies."

- AB 1482, by Assemblyman Tom Bane, D-Van Nuys, would provide \$200,000 annually through 1990 to fund a study to compare the incidence of transfusion-transmitted disease in patients receiving platelet transfusion from single-source volunteer donors, single-source compensated donors and blood platelet transfusion of pooled platelet packs.

- SB 136 by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, would require all schools with grades 7 to 12 to provide AIDS prevention instruction unless a parent or guardian requests in writing that his or her child not receive the instruction.

- SB 1158 by Sen. Ed Davis, R-Valencia, would permit a court or magistrate "upon a showing of good cause and accompanied by the written request of the victim of sexual assault" to authorize the testing of the defendant in a sexual assault case for sexually transmitted disease, including AIDS.